

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5958

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, KS

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR SNEIDER'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT

1. AMBASSADOR SNEIDER MADE FOLLOWING ARRIVAL STATEMENT AT KIMPO TODAY WHICH COVERED HEAVILY BY ALL MEDIA:

2. "IN OFFERING WARMEST GREETINGS TO THE KOREAN PEOPLE, LET ME SAY AT THE OUTSET THAT I FEEL BOTH HONORED AND VERY DELIGHTED TO BE HERE. WHILE I HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN ASSIGNED TO KOREA, MY ASSOCIATION WITH THIS COUNTRY, MY ADMIRATION FOR YOUR STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE, AND MY APPRECIATION FOR YOUR TRADITIONAL WARMTH AND HOSPITALITY GO BACK TO 1950, WHEN I MADE MY FIRST OF MANY VISITS HERE. I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY THIS ASSIGNMENT AFFORDS ME TO DEVELOP A MUCH DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE RICH SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ELEMENTS OF THE KOREAN HERITAGE.

3. "DURING MY LONG ASSOCIATION WITH ASIA, ESPECIALLY DURING MY LAST ASSIGNMENT IN WASHINGTON, I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH GREAT INTEREST DEVELOPMENTS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, AND HAVE HAD DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN MY GOVERNMENT FOR MANY OF THE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH KOREAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. I AM KEENLY AWARE OF THE DYNAMIC QUALITIES OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE AND OF THE BROAD RANGE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF WHICH THE DEDICATED PEOPLE HERE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE PROUD.

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4. "THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAVE BEEN ALLIES IN WAR AND PARTNERS IN PEACE. WE SHARE A COMMON COMMITMENT TO THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN ASIA AND THE WORLD, AND WE HAVE STRONG TIES OF FRIENDSHIP GOING BACK A FULL CENTURY. AS AMBASSADOR TO KOREA, I WILL DO MY UTMOST TO FURTHER OUR MUTUAL GOALS AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN EVEN STRONGER FRIENDSHIP AND EVEN GREATER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES.

5. "AT THE PRESENT MOMENT, I CAN ADD ALSO THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND I PERSONALLY, HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF KOREA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN CAN REACH AN AMICABLE SOLUTION, ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH OF THEM, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO THE PROBLEMS THAT THEY NOW FACE. IF I CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THAT SOLUTION I SHOULD CERTAINLY BE MORE THAN READY TO DO SO."
SNEIDER

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